Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 01508 061131Z ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1944

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 1508

EO 11652: NA TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND EARTHQUAKE

REF: STATE 049715

EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH CHIEF RABBI ROSEN WHO HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION, WHICH WE REQUEST BE PASSED TO RABBI SCHINDLER:

1. RABBI AND MRS

ROSEN ARE UNINJURED ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SEVERE DAMAGE TO THEIR APARTMENT. ALL LEADERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ARE OKAY.

- 2. FOUR SYNAGOGUES IN BUCHAREST ARE DESTROYED OR UNUSEABLE: AMZEI, GASTE, FRATERNA, OR KUDOSH. SOME DAMAGE OCCURRED AT TEMPLUL CORAL, MALBIM AND THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE. THESE LATTER ARE NOW BEING INSPECTED FOR SAFETY, AND IF DECLARED STRUCTURALLY SOUND WILL BE USED TO TEMPORARILY HOUSE DISPLACED PERSONS. BOTH SYNAGOGUES IN CRAIOVA ARE DESTROYED.
- 3. THE KOSHER RESTARURANT IN BUCHAREST WAS UNAFFECTED, AND IS SERVING MANY MORE THAN ITS NORMAL THOUSAND DAILY MEALS. FOOD SUPPLIES FOR PASSOVER AND THE POOR HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY DESTROYED; COMMUNITY NOW INVENTORYING WHAT REMAINS UNCLASSIFIED

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AND MAY NEED MORE FROM JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, ESPECIALLY FOR PASSOVER.

4. AMONG THE KNOWN INDIVIDUALS DEAD FROM JEWISH COMMUNITY ARE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR MARCU, DR VERMONT (DENTIST)) - WHO WHO WAS ABOUT TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL, WRITER/LAWYER VERONICA PORUMBACU AND HUSBAND AS WELL AS TWO WRITERS

(MR GAFITA AND ONE OTHER - NAME UNKNOWN) WHO WERE IN THEIR HOUSE AS DINNER GUESTS AT TIME OF EARTHQUAKE.

- 5. THE COMMUNITY IS DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLOTHING AND MONEY TO THOSE IN NEED.
- 6. NO DAMAGE TO ANY OF COMMUNITIES IN TRANSYLVANIA.
- 7. AS INDICATION OF HIGH MORALE IN COMMUNITY REGULAR MORNING SERVICES WERE CONDUCTED BY ROSEN SATURDAY AT TEMPLUL CORAL; HE DELIVERED A SERMON TO THE LARGE CONGREGATION AND OFFERED THE PRAYER FOR WELFARE OF THOSE AFFECTED. THAT AFTERNOON HE CONDUCTED A TALMUD CLASS, AGAIN ATTENDED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE. THE PURIM PARTY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY EVINING WAS CANCELLED.

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